

Dog Bites

A Public Health Problem

Dog Bite Statistics

- More than 1/3 of US households own a dog, adding up to about 54 million pets.
- Each year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates more than 4.7 million Americans are bitten, **most of whom are children.**
- Some 900,000 require medical treatment, and up to 20 die.
- Most people think dog bites are from strays, but 58% of the dog bites occur at home.
- A child is more likely to be bitten in the head, neck, or face and is more likely to need emergency room treatment for a bite.
- Dog bites are the reason for more emergency room visits among children than playground injuries.
- **Each year in the Louisville Metro community, over 1000 dog bites are reported to your local Metro Health Department !**



Dog Bite Prevention Tips for Kids

- Don't pet a dog that is eating, sleeping or guarding its puppies.
- Don't try to pull a toy, stick, or any item from a dog's mouth, don't play tug-of-war!
- When a strange dog comes up to you, don't run or scream. Instead, stand still with your hands at your sides and do not stare into the dog's eyes, "**be still like a tree.**"
- If knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your ears, "**lie like a log**" until the dog goes away.

For more information :
Division of Environmental
Health and Protection
502-574-6650

